

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system for a building comprising:

at least one lowerable, collapsible, generally vertical transporter arranged for selectable communication with at least one floor of a building; and

a controller for lowering said transporter from said at least one floor to a level at which egress of persons may safely occur.

71. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 70 and wherein said at least one transporter comprises a multiple-platform transporter, arranged for selectable communication with multiple floors of a building.

72. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 71 and wherein said at least one multiple-platform transporter comprises:

a plurality of stackable platforms arranged to be supported on multiple generally vertical supports, at least some of said plurality of stackable platforms being arranged in mutually spaced relationship, each in communication with a different floor of said building for evacuation loading.

73. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 72 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms are arranged in a mutually collapsed relationship when not in use.

74. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 72 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms are arranged in a mutually collapsed relationship following evacuation unloading.

75. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 72 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise cables.

76. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 72 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise rigid support elements.

77. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 72 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms each comprise a bottom support surface and a peripheral enclosing element.

78. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 77 and wherein said peripheral enclosing element comprises a wall element formed of fabric.

79. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 78 and wherein said fabric comprises at least one of a heat resistant fabric, a fire resistant fabric and a smoke resistant fabric.

80. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 70 and also comprising at least one building mounted stabilizing element cooperating with said transporter for stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

81. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 71 and wherein:  
said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and  
said controller is operative to individually control individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters may be simultaneously positioned in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.

82. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 71 and wherein:  
said controller is operative to simultaneously position said multiple platforms in communication with multiple egress levels of said building for simultaneous evacuation.

83. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 71 and wherein said at least one transporter is also operative for lifting persons from said egress level to said multiple floors of said building.

84. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 70 and wherein said transporter is building mounted.

85. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 84 and wherein said controller is operative to selectably lower said at least one transporter to said egress level in the absence of electrical power.

86-87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system for a building comprising:

at least one lowerable, multiple-platform, generally vertical transporter arranged for selectable communication with multiple floors of a building; and

a controller for lowering said at least one transporter from said multiple floors to at least one egress level at which egress of persons may safely occur.

89. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein said at least one lowerable, multiple-platform, generally vertical transporter comprises:

a plurality of stackable platforms arranged to be supported on multiple generally vertical supports, at least some of said plurality of stackable platforms being arranged in mutually spaced relationship, each in communication with a different floor of said building for evacuation loading.

90. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 89 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms are arranged in a mutually collapsed relationship when not in use.

91. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 89 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms are arranged in a mutually collapsed relationship following evacuation unloading.

92. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 89 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise cables.

93. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 89 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise rigid support elements.

94. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 89 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms each comprise a bottom support surface and a peripheral enclosing element.

95. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 94 and wherein said peripheral enclosing element comprises a wall element formed of fabric.

96. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 95 and wherein said fabric comprises at least one of a heat resistant fabric, a fire resistant fabric and a smoke resistant fabric.

97. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and also comprising at least one building mounted stabilizing element cooperating with said transporter for stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

98. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein:  
said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and  
said controller is operative to individually control individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters may be simultaneously positioned in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.

99. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein:  
said controller is operative to simultaneously position said multiple platforms in communication with multiple egress levels of said building for simultaneous evacuation.

100. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein said at least one transporter is also operative for lifting persons from said at least one egress level to said multiple floors of said building.

101. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein said multiple platforms comprise nestable platforms.

102. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 88 and wherein said transporter is building mounted.

103. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 102 and wherein said controller is operative to selectably lower said at least one transporter to said at least one egress level in the absence of electrical power.

104-105. (Cancelled)

106. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system for a building comprising:  
at least one lowerable, mutually spacable, multiple-platform, generally vertical transporter arranged for selectable communication with multiple floors of a building; and  
a controller for lowering said transporter from said multiple floors to at least one egress level at which egress of persons may safely occur,  
mutual spacing between said multiple platforms being reducible.

107. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and wherein said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of stackable platforms arranged to be supported on multiple generally vertical supports.

108. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 107 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise cables.

109. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 107 and wherein said multiple generally vertical supports comprise rigid support elements.

110. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 107 and wherein said plurality of stackable platforms each comprise a bottom support surface and a peripheral enclosing element.

111. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 110 and wherein said peripheral enclosing element comprises a wall element formed of fabric.

112. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 111 and wherein said fabric comprises at least one of a heat resistant fabric, a fire resistant fabric and a smoke resistant fabric.

113. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and also comprising at least one building mounted stabilizing element cooperating with said transporter for stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

114. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and wherein:

said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and

said controller is operative to individually control individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters may be simultaneously positioned in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.

115. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and wherein:

said controller is operative to simultaneously position said multiple platforms in communication with multiple egress levels of said building for simultaneous evacuation.

116. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and wherein said at least one transporter is also operative for lifting persons from said at least one egress level to said multiple floors of said building.

117. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 106 and wherein said transporter is building mounted.

118. (Previously Presented) An evacuation system according to claim 117 and wherein said controller is operative to selectably lower said at least one transporter to said at least one egress level in the absence of electrical power.

119-120. (Cancelled)

121. (Previously Presented) A method for evacuation of a building comprising:

positioning at least one lowerable, collapsible, generally vertical transporter including at least one platform in communication with at least one floor of a building; and

lowering said at least one platform of said at least one transporter from said at least one floor to at least one egress level at which egress of persons may safely occur.

122. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 121 and wherein:

said at least one transporter comprises a multiple-platform transporter; and

said positioning comprises selectably positioning said multiple platforms in communication with multiple floors of a building.

123. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 121 and also comprising stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

124. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 122 and wherein:

said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and

said selectably positioning comprises simultaneously positioning individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters are in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.

125. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 122 and also comprising simultaneously positioning said multiple platforms in communication with multiple egress levels of said building for simultaneous evacuation.

126. (Previously Presented) A method for evacuation of a building comprising:

positioning at least one lowerable, multiple-platform, generally vertical transporter in communication with multiple floors of a building; and

lowering said multiple platforms of said at least one transporter from said multiple floors to at least one egress level at which egress of persons may safely occur.

127. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 126 and wherein said positioning comprises selectably positioning a plurality of stackable platforms, each in communication with a different floor of said building, for evacuation loading.

128. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 126 and also comprising stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

129. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 126 and wherein:

said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and

said positioning comprises simultaneously positioning individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters are in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.

130. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 126 and also comprising simultaneously positioning said multiple platforms in communication with multiple egress levels of said building for simultaneous evacuation.

131. (Previously Presented) A method for evacuation of a building comprising:

positioning at least one lowerable, mutually spacable, multiple-platform, generally vertical transporter in communication with multiple floors of a building;

lowering said multiple platforms of said transporter from said multiple floors to at least one level at which egress of persons may safely occur; and

reducing mutual spacing between said multiple platforms following said egress of persons.

132. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 131 and also comprising stabilizing said transporter against lateral forces.

133. (Previously Presented) An evacuation method according to claim 131 and wherein:

said at least one transporter comprises a plurality of transporters; and

said positioning comprises simultaneously positioning individual ones of said plurality of transporters wherein multiple platforms of different transporters are in communication with different groups of multiple floors of said building for simultaneous evacuation loading.